

By Steven Lee Myers

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/13/world/middleeast/13iraq.html?\\_r=2&pagewanted=all](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/13/world/middleeast/13iraq.html?_r=2&pagewanted=all)

The **United States Commission on International Religious Freedom**, appointed by the president and Congress, said that the nominal protections for religious minorities in Iraq — including Christians, Yazidis and Sabeian Mandeans, followers of St. John the Baptist — did little to stop violence or official discrimination in employment, housing and other matters. It noted that few of the attacks against minority groups were ever properly investigated or prosecuted, “creating a climate of impunity.”